

Weedon Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Old Schoolroom on
Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Joanna Rose, Wendy Kett, Sarah Gibbs, Judy Nagele, Mike Stevens, Thea Bailey

Acting Chair and Minutes Secretary: Joanna Rose

1. **Receive Apologies:** Ruth Millard, Catherine Rodnight, Colin Rose
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 May 2024**
The minutes of 28 May 2024 were agreed and signed. The signed version would be uploaded to the Weedon website to replace the draft.
3. **To receive a report from Chair of the Weedon Parish Council**
Chair of Weedon PC Cllr Joanna Rose presented the report from the Parish Council.
4. **To receive reports from other Weedon village organisations**
Reports were given by:
 - Weedon Village Association – Catherine Rodnight, Chair (presented in absentia)
 - Weedon Old Schoolroom – Joanna Rose, Chair of Trustees
 - Weedon Charities (Dr John Bridle’s Charity & Lord Fortescue’s Charity) – Wendy Kett, Clerk
 - Tuesday Club – Judy Nagele, Chair
 - Weedon Methodist Chapel – Sarah Gibbs, Head Steward
 - Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon) – Mike Stevens, Chair
 - Weedon Golf Society – Colin Rose, Chair (presented in absentia)Copies of reports are appended to these Minutes.
5. **Public Open Forum**
No issues raised.
6. **To agree the date of next meeting.** Tuesday 26 May 2026 to be held in the Old Schoolroom

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chair’s Signature

Date.....

Weedon Annual Parish Meeting 2025

27th May 2025

Report by Joanna Rose on the Parish Council April 2024 to March 2025

As with most public bodies, the Parish Council financial year runs from April to March. This is a report on the financial year April 2024 to March 2025.

Constitution and Meetings

In the year to March 25, six regular scheduled general meetings (every other month) plus 5 additional planning and interim meetings were held in the Old Schoolroom and the Chapel.

The council was at its full strength of 7 councillors until October 2024, when Cllr Graham Delaney so sadly died. We were very grateful for his service over the previous three years. The vacancy was filled by co-option of Cllr Thea Bailey in January 2025. The recent parish council elections in May 2025 have resulted in a full council of 7 members, 6 of whom have served before, plus new member Geoff Fincher.

The Council continues to be supported by our experienced and efficient Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Ruth Millard, who has been employed by Weedon PC since 2013.

The main part of Weedon Parish Council's work is looking after public areas of the village for the community

1. The Park and Play Area

The Park is owned by the Parish Council. We arranged for grass cutting, hedge pruning, path weedkilling, inspection and maintenance of the play equipment and emptying of the litter bin. To supplement the annual inspection by ROSPA, we were grateful to volunteers Steve and Nathalie Loftly for checking the Park every week in the summer, as well as carrying out cleaning and re-coating to benches and seats.

The Park play equipment continues to be robust, although it is 12 years old now, requiring only minor repairs to bring it into compliance with the ROSPA recommendations. Works were carried out checking chains, tightening bolts and other fittings, replacing strimmer guards around the base of several posts, replacing a rotting timber post in the palisade and sanding some of the timber surfaces of the equipment and the fence. After the sad death of Gerry Millard, who had worked on equipment maintenance for ten years, the PC was grateful to village resident James Batchelor for carrying out these repairs at reasonable cost and short notice.

At Christmas, the PC again purchased a tree, which was placed on the Park. The previously purchased fairy lights were used again to great effect.

2. Weedon Graveyard and War Memorial

The PC manages the graveyard under a 99-year lease. We arranged for the maintenance of the grounds and handled the administration for new graves and memorials and plot reservations.

We were grateful to Paul Winrow, who continued his volunteer work checking the graveyard on a regular basis and carrying out clearing and tidying around the graves. We were also fortunate that Vice Chair Sarah Gibbs was offered regular repair and maintenance sessions by the Community Payback Team (under the Probation Service) to help at the Chapel and graveyard.

On the graveyard management side, the Schedule of Fees and Graveyard Regulations were reviewed and updated as usual in April. A continued annual donation towards the upkeep of the graveyard by a former Weedon resident was again most welcome.

3. Other public spaces

We had the grass cut and weeds controlled around the pond and on the village green triangle. Steve and Jayne Richards continued to care for and feed the white Aylesbury ducks with grain paid for by the PC. There are fewer of these nowadays, as everyone agreed it was not sustainable (and quite costly!) to keep re-stocking the Aylesburys when they were taken by the fox – which happened on a regular seasonal basis. These domesticated fowl do not protect or look after themselves well, as they roost on the ground, and do not forage their own food. There are plenty of wild mallards, coots and moorhens which inhabit and visit the pond.

The High Street Pump trough and the barrel on the Triangle were beautifully planted and maintained by Clare Macdonald (triangle), and Christine and Nic Nicolay (pump).

A very important public facility to keep the village clean and safe is the provision of dog bins. There are now 3 dog bins (purchased by the PC) spaced through the village, and the PC pays for them to be emptied regularly. There are also 7 litter bins – also provided at the PC's expense.

A very welcome enhancement to the green spaces in the village has been the addition of the public grassed area on the pavement side of the fence to the front of the "gap" land. This has been named "The View", and the PC was delighted when the Weedon Village Association made a donation to allow a superb new hardwood seat to be installed.

The rest of the gap land is now named Turpins Orchard Field (after the neighbouring house). Despite the PC's best efforts through our solicitor (Vice Chair Sarah Gibbs), legal delays from the other side have meant that only this July will the freehold of the land (Turpins Orchard Field and The View) pass into Weedon Parish Council ownership. Turpins Orchard Field will be leased with the responsibility for full maintenance as a bio-diverse wildlife haven to Richard Bates.

Restrictive covenants and clauses in the transfer and the lease have been drafted to ensure no building or commercial development and a limitation on tree-planting and height of hedges and fences. The restored long-distance views across to the Chiltern Hills are now protected for the enjoyment of everyone in perpetuity.

4. Footpaths

The Council monitors footpaths to ensure landowners keep them clear and undertakes clearance itself on Footpath 12 from New Road to Lilies wood.

5. Streetlights

These are owned and maintained by the Parish Council, and the PC pays for the electricity to power them. The heritage-style lanterns were converted to LEDs in 2020, which reduced the usage and therefore cost of electricity. In September 2024, our 3fixed-rate contract finished, so costs inevitably went up, but we have fixed another 3-year contract at what seems to be a competitive rate from April 25. Touch wood, the new equipment also seems to give much more infrequent repair and maintenance issues.

6. Speed control

We now have 3 Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (MVAS) in the village. The new MVAS – with red or green actual speed displays – is solar-powered, so no batteries need to be removed and re-charged. Although it is theoretically *mobile*, we do not intend to move it from its position just inside the entrance gates to the village when coming from Aston Abbots. The other two MVAS will continue in their current positions, too – New Road as you come into the village from the A413, and Aston Abbots Road on the wildflower verge – as these seem to be the most effective locations.

Community Speedwatch sessions have been intermittent. The police central office of volunteers, who send out the warning letters to offenders, have been under pressure. Without the letters being sent in a timely manner, the effort from our side seemed unrewarded. But we currently have 12 trained volunteers and are planning a blitz day on July 11th for National Day of Community Speedwatch Action.

We are always looking out for speed control measures we see in other villages which would be permitted by Highways legislation, and affordable for Weedon. I must stress that ANY speed control measure must be approved by Bucks Highways, as they have ultimate authority over all the roads, pavements, verges and signs throughout the county. Our new Bucks councillor Phil Gomm is very hot on highways and speed issues.

7. Highways

And so on to other Highways matters. We continued our Devolved Services contract from Buckinghamshire Council, for which we receive a grant.

Weedon PC arranges grass verge cutting within the 30mph limit, road and pavement weedkilling, sign cleaning, and monitoring of hedges bordering roads. These works are carried out for us by a local contractor. The wildflower verges on Aston Abbots Road are different every year, with very encouraging signs of many native wildflowers and grasses, plus more bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

While New Road is not included in the Devolved Services contract, we are aware that the cuts carried out by Bucks Council are not sufficient to maintain good visibility for vehicles and accessibility for the footway. So, the PC pays for up to 2 additional cuts of New Road verges.

8. Noticeboards, Newsletters and Website

The village website at www.weedonbucks.org.uk was maintained by the PC and hosted locally. Community organisations have access to their site areas and can update them.

Email has continued to be important. The Parish Magazine is now delivered digitally to the majority of households, but those not on email are provided with printed copies.

The annual Parish Council newsletter/update is usually published in September and hand-delivered free of charge to every home in the village. There was no edition in 2024.

Best Kept Village

We were delighted to win the Gurney Cup again in 2024 for our usual category of villages under 500 people. This was our third win in a row. We're in the Tindall Cup this year, for previous year's winners.

Another important element of the parish council's work is in liaising with outside organisations

Planning (Buckinghamshire Council)

The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application for building in Weedon. We can respond with No Objection, Support, Comment or Objection. We consider our response to every application at a public meeting. We also monitor tree works applications in the Conservation Area. There were relatively few planning applications in the year (5) and the PC had no comments or objections for four of them.

However, the application in April 2024 for change of use of the stables land at Cooks Hill into a traveller site was of great interest to the village and the Parish Council. This was virtually a repeat of an application in 2013, which gained temporary permission but was never occupied. The PC held a public planning meeting, as we do for every planning application. It was agreed to put in a detailed objection to the plans, as the site was felt to be totally unsuitable, unsustainable and contrary to planning guidance on building dwellings on greenfield land. Other residents also objected. The application has still not been decided by Bucks Council. No further documents have been uploaded to the online planning portal since 10th December 2024. We await developments.

Highways and Waste (Buckinghamshire Council)

As outlined before, we continue to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council, who have responsibility for all the roads, footways and footpaths in the county, to try to speed up repairs and resurfacing of the roads and maintain safe visibility through verge cutting on main roads. In addition, we report fly-tipping and any issues with waste collection to the StreetScene waste department.

Other Organisations

Councillors attended meetings of the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board, a forum set up by Bucks Council to bring together parish and unitary councillors and other local stakeholders in one relatively informal quarterly session. Due to local ward reorganisation, Weedon is now in the West Bucks Community Board, and, following the election of the new unitary council, we await more information on how the boards are going to operate.

Thames Valley Police

The Neighbourhood Team are invited to come to Parish Council meetings periodically. The PC receives Police, Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch alerts, which we pass on to residents as appropriate.

Financial and Administrative

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 were audited and submitted last summer. The 2025 accounts have been finalised and will be submitted for audit by the end of June.

The PC's main income comes from the parish precept, funded by residents' Council Tax. In 24-25, the precept was £14,448, which meant a 2.95% increase in residents' council tax after 13 years of holding the rate. We maintained services and covered our routine expenditure with the precept and budgeted income grants. Exceptional works came out of previous reserves. Due to cost-of-living pressures, we have had to increase council tax this year, too – this time by 4.95%.

But we have had some good news on the financial front. The conversion of the former stables at Weedon Hill into dwellings has produced a Section 106 Developer Contribution of £40,700 for spending on Sport and Leisure in the parish of Weedon. This money is held by Bucks Council for up to 10 years for us to spend on approved projects. So, we have a good reserve when the play equipment needs to be replaced or enhanced.

2024-25 was another good one for Weedon Parish Council, winning the Best Kept Village competition for the third year in a row, cementing the agreements on the village gap and continuing to invest in measures to improve road safety in our village. I'd like to thank sincerely all my fellow-councillors, the clerk, our contractors and volunteers, the other village organisations and many individual residents for making all of that happen.

Weedon Village Association Annual Report 2025

Review of the year January 2024 to January 2025

Good evening. We represent the village association which organise events throughout the year making a profit where we can and re investing it into the village

I'm the Chair, Wendy is our Treasurer, the other members of the committee are Mandie Fairhurst, Lizzy Birks, Lottie Holmes, Sally Jones, Helen McIntyre and Penny Stevens.

We have had a successful year with our regular events and this year the Weedon Ball was back into our agenda for 2024.

The egg rolling event brings out a great variety of villagers, come rain or shine. - Clare Macdonald does a great job of encouraging the eggs down Stockaway.

We did the clear up at the beginning of May 2024. We are always grateful to the village for the amount of people who turn up to this event as it makes it so much easier. Thank you to Joanna for providing the pickers and bags and organising the collection of the rubbish.

The Ball was on the 1st June and we had our max number of 130 guests enjoying a lovely evening with thanks to Nicolette and Frances Habgood. We have an excellent team and the food was a great success thanks to Lizzy, Lottie and Sally. The band was good and we made the decision to outsource the bar which whilst being a bit more expensive, was also a good result. Overall with the generosity of the raffle and auction, we raised a lot of funds for the WVA which we will (and have already) started to put back into the village.

Making the most of the marquee, we had a free village tea party after the ball on the Sunday afternoon, with games and tug of war. There was tea and home-made cakes supplied and run by the Schoolroom committee, and we all enjoyed the sunshine which is never a given at these events. It was a success and one that we will replicate.

Open gardens last year was a very successful event very well organised by Lizzy and it was so lovely to have some gardens open that we wouldn't normally be able to see. Lizzy generously opened her garden for teas and we raised money from donations for two local charities.

The horticultural show is always a well attended village event and we had a great show this year. Lots of entries and a good turnout with a good auction at the end. Thank you to Clare for the organisation and it made a profit and there were some excellent entries in all categories. Mike did a great job with the auction and they raised some good funds.

We decided against the BBQ

There were quiz nights, one in March and one in November with Bob Gregory as quizmaster. We got a good turnout to both and it is always a fun event. The committee did a great job of providing a meal at each of these. Going forward we will probably do one quiz a year instead of two.

The children's party was very well organised by Penny thank you so much. We don't have as many children attending now, but it is a lovely event with a lot of passion in it! Thank you to Penny.

The final event of the year is always the over 65's New Year Dinner. This year the event was held at lunchtime instead of in the evening, which proved very successful. A three-course meal was

provided by the committee, with a meals-on-wheels service provided to three house-bound residents. This year we didn't have any entertainment, allowing people more time to chat, which seemed popular.

We have donated a bench to the village, and we are organising a free village party in July this year. If there are any other ways that anyone would like us to spend the funds then please let the committee know. The ball (being our biggest fund raiser) will hopefully be back next year.

I wanted to say a big thank you to the committee who are all going to be standing again. We all seem to dip in and out depending on our commitments and without them it wouldn't be the Committee it is. Thank you also to all of you for supporting our events. We are always open to new ideas so please let any one of us know if you would like to see a particular event this coming year.

Chair's report WOS for Annual Parish Meeting May 25 re year 2024

I'm delighted to report that in 2024 the hall continued its strong return to its role as a vibrant community asset. New hirers, more hours hired, lots going on!

Over £5,300 of lettings fees and £1,000 of café takings combined to give a total income of over £6,500. This is the highest annual income from our own resources in recent years. Costs are under control, we are staying on top of repairs and maintenance and investing in energy-efficient plant and equipment, while still retaining a good contingency reserve of £11,500 left from the Covid grants.

LETTINGS

We were able to hold prices through 2024, so that means the increased lettings income came from increased usage. Of course, the two elections last year added significantly, too, as they are priced at a premium rate.

Regular hirers are the backbone of the hall – and really what we're all about. It was great to retain all of these – most using the hall for a similar number of hours as in 2023. And we added another local fortnightly group – Whist. So, thank you to community activity groups Thrive, Yoga, Tuesday Club, Upholstery, Art and Whist; village organisations WVA, Wild Weedon and Weedon Parish Council; and private regular hirers for counselling and non-Weedon interest groups.

It's gratifying to see the hall being used for more parties and functions – both for Weedon people and those from neighbouring communities. The number of hours of party bookings more than doubled in 2024.

THE CAFE

The monthly Café continues to be a very popular way of raising funds and providing a regular community get-together. The development of the takeaway cake option, plus giving a card/phone payment facility, have both gone down well, helping the takings to over £1,000 for the year. All the cakes, coffee and tea are generously provided by the committee.

EXPENDITURE

Fixed costs

Fortunately, many of our fixed costs stayed at similar rates to last year – cleaning, subscriptions to Bucks Community Action Village Hall Forum, Performing Rights Society fees, internet, floral displays – even insurance! We were fortunate that our new cleaner took on the job at the same rate as previously and we thank her for her hard work.

Annual repair and maintenance costs

We have an electrical inspection and a fire extinguisher survey every year. There were items to be repaired on both visits, so costs were somewhat up on 2023. This year we also had a service visit for the electric heating system, due to the failure of a small component.

We were very grateful to Mike Stevens, who carried out several repairs and only charged for materials. These included re-painting the railings outside the back and the radiator in the ladies' loo, replacing the sound system volume switch, re-fixing the emergency light in the kitchen and fitting draught excluder round the cottage door.

Investment in new equipment and fittings

- We invested £369 in a programmable electric heater for the upstairs cottage room, so that can be economically heated independently without turning on the main heating.
- We invested £56 in a new large easy-to-use pull-down screen for use with a projector.
- Steve Hunt generously donated a large quantity of roof insulation material and installed it in the roof voids above the kitchen, upstairs cottage room and stairs, charging just for his work time at £165.
- The lightbulbs in the main hall were exchanged for low-energy LED bulbs at a cost of £175.

Utilities costs

Water usage increased somewhat, as did water prices. However, the meter is read regularly and the cost in the accounts is accurate.

Electricity usage decreased from the very high figure of just over £4,000 in 2023 to £3,100 in 2024, as a result of better control of the heating systems, and a new contract at lower rates. We have now changed supplier again from January 2025.

ADMIN

As we do every year, we reviewed all our policies in November and published revised versions on the website. These include the Fire and Safety Risk Assessment, General Risk Management Assessment, Privacy Policy (and attendant GDPR inventory documents), Safeguarding Policy, Hiring Policy and Complaints Policy.

TRUSTEES

I'd like to thank all the trustees of the Old Schoolroom for their hard work and commitment:

Margaret Askew, Secretary, Alan Askew, Treasurer, Penny Stevens, Judy Nagele, Anne Redstone, Lizzy Birks, Beverley Jones and Shirley Bush

But I will single out three trustees for their particular contributions:

- **Alan** is still in negotiations with the previous energy supplier, as well as the new one. As well as dealing quietly and efficiently with the not inconsiderable work of dealing with the financial side of the hirings.
- **Shirley, along with husband John**, not only attends all trustee meetings and cafes, but, of course, is the unpaid Bookings Secretary and Hall Supervisor. Shirley and John are utterly reliable and scrupulously fair with every hirer, spending many hours every week in ensuring everything runs smoothly.

We have a big challenge coming up in March 2026, as John and Shirley are giving up their Bookings Secretary/Hall Supervisor role – after their family will have looked after the hall for 90 years!

- **Judy Nagele** has given so much of herself and her considerable talents to the Old Schoolroom committee over nearly 20 years. She stepped back from her trusteeship at the April AGM. We shall miss her – and her supreme Strawberry Cream Sponge! – and send her our very best wishes.

So, 2024 was a good year, although we didn't have the opportunity to put on any entertainments in the hall ourselves. We're looking forward to organising something in the autumn.

Dr. John Bridle's & Lord Fortescue's Charities 2024

Dr John Bridle's Charity provides grants to applicants living in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hardwick, which covers Weedon, Hardwick and the south side of Bushmead Road, Whitchurch. Grants are either for people in need or for those in education, and are not means tested. Lord Fortescue's Charity provides grants to residents of Weedon who are in need and can also give grants for the general benefit of the residents of the village.

Dr John Bridle's Charity

About half the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents and half from investments. A small increase in investment income resulted in a 2.5% increase in total income.

During 2024 grants totalling £5,600 were awarded to 20 residents of Weedon & Hardwick (19 in 2023), 9 as Educational grants and 11 as Need grants.

Lord Fortescue's Charity

Over 90% of the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents with the remainder from investments. Income for the year was up by 1.3% on the previous year.

In 2024 Need grants totalling £3250 were made to 10 residents of Weedon.

Leaflets for both charities were printed and delivered to all households in their respective areas of eligibility. Each leaflet provides details of the sort of expenditure for which the charity can provide assistance and includes an application form. Application forms and information about both charities is also available on Weedon village website www.weedonbucks.org.uk and for Dr John Bridle's charity on Hardwick Village Association website www.hardwick-village.co.uk

Report relating to Weedon Methodist Chapel and the Parish Church of St Mary's, Hardwick for the Weedon Annual Parish Meeting 27th May 2025

This is a report of the Churches activity in the year to 8 May 2025 (which was the date of the Parish Church's Annual Parochial Church Meeting).

The local ecumenical partnership between the Methodists at the Chapel and the Anglican St Mary's in Hardwick is governed by a joint committee which oversees all aspects of church services, buildings, policies, finances and events. It meets in person roughly every two months and there were 5 meetings during the year. At those meetings, regular reports are received from the churchwardens, chapel steward and treasurer as well as briefings on the activities of the higher church bodies – the deanery synod and Schorne Team for the Parish Church and the Methodist Circuit for the Chapel.

We cannot overlook the very sad and sudden death in August 2024 of our Anglican Incumbent Rev Canon David Meakin after a brief serious illness. His loss has had a profound effect on all of the parishioners and churches in his parish, including the neighbouring churches of Whitchurch, Dunton and Hoggaston. David received an honorary canonship from Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford in July of last year for his services to ministry. He was the Rural Dean for the Claydon Deanery and the Deanery is in the process of working with the Archdeacon of Buckingham and the Diocese to find a new vicar for the Schorne Team. In the interim, all our prayers and thoughts remain with David's wife Heidi and their family.

Services

Notwithstanding the period of interregnum, we have worked hard to re-establish the pattern of regular worship at St Mary's. During the period of David's illness, we ran some combined services at St John's, Whitchurch, but have since September been able to hold all of the usual weekly services thanks in toto to the assistance of our LEP Methodist Minister Rev Richard Atkinson, who has been extremely supportive, and also other Schorne Team clergy – particularly Rev Janet Bayly, to whom we are also grateful. Richard led our service of Remembrance at St Mary's in November, and the Christmas Carol Service in December (each joint with Whitchurch) and Janet led the Easter Day Service. All of these were well attended.

There have been two funeral services at St Mary's during the year and a renewal of vows for a Golden Wedding celebration on 20 July 2024. Two weddings are planned for next year.

The monthly family services at the Chapel continue to take place on the second Sunday of the month led by ministers from the Methodist Circuit and have been pretty well attended. We held the Harvest Service at Weedon this year and the usual December Christingle.

The November remembrance event also took place in the Chapel grounds (and this year inside the building due to some squally weather) and we had a good turnout for what has proved to be a distinct act of respect in the village. Thank you to Ralph Followell for assisting with the names and some history of the local fallen, and to Stevie Ashurst for being the Standard-bearer.

It has been quiet event-wise at the Chapel this year with no baptisms, weddings or funerals taking place, although some are now in the diary for this coming year.

Sarah Gibbs is Chapel Steward and maintains the links with the Aylesbury Methodist Circuit for the planning of all church services and Methodist policies such as safeguarding and data protection. She attends the regular Circuit meetings.

Buildings

Facilities and maintenance of the Chapel are carried out by Sarah with the help, as required, of Paul Winrow, John Jones and Steve Hunt to all of whom the committee is very grateful. The only major issue this year has been water in the oil tank which thankfully has now been removed and the boiler serviced and back to normal.

St Mary's is monitored by Sarah and Martin Rodnight as churchwardens and help drafted in as necessary. The 5-yearly (quinquennial) inspection has just taken place and we are praying that no major defects will be revealed.

We are lucky as a community to have continued the relationship with the Community Payback Team sent by the Aylesbury Probation Service, an unpaid workforce which is able to carry out basic grounds-work, maintenance and cleaning and which comes most weeks mainly to St Mary's but also to the Chapel as required.

Further outreach has continued from both churches with regular foodbank collections organised in favour of the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse, a Christian body which serves the Aylesbury area. These collections have been very well supported by the village and are gratefully received by the Vineyard.

Fundraising

We have held a few church events this year to bolster funds and entertain the community: the Harvest Supper this year took place at the Weedon Old Schoolroom in October where we were treated to a delicious two course meal and entertainment from a rowdy group of excellent ukelele players. In November we held a craft fayre at St Mary's – and thanks to the generosity of many local residents, we made nearly £2000. The newly instigated Pudding Night raised £300 and another £250 was gained from helping with catering at the Herdwick X-stream race event in March. We hope, later in the year to take part in the Ride and Stride event organised by Bucks Historic Churches Trust and which raises money for our own churches and BHCT itself, which is in turn a grant-making body.

Sarah Gibbs, Churchwarden and Chapel Steward
27 May 2025

Weedon Wildlife Group – Report to Parish Meeting – May 2025

We are the local wildlife conservation group for Weedon and Hardwick. Although named after Weedon village, we are also recognised by Hardwick as their own local wildlife group, and we encourage members of both villages to participate in our events. Membership is open to all and there is currently no membership fee. Activities are funded by voluntary donations. This is our fifth report to the Parish Meeting. We try to cater for all age groups and all levels of understanding of our natural environment. We are delighted to report that our events are well supported by villagers of all ages.

Since the last Parish Meeting, we have achieved the following:

- Moved our bank account away from Lloyds who were intent on charging a monthly fee. Our new account is with NatWest.
- Held our fourth Annual General Meeting during which membership of the committee was confirmed: Mike Stevens (Chair); Sally Jones (Secretary); Wendy Kett (Treasurer); Martin Routledge (Conservation and Survey Officer); Saskia Welman (Social Media and Communications); Penny Stevens (Education and Engagement), Jackie Brett (Hardwick Liaison). Although each committee member has a stated 'role' we operate very much as a team
- Continued to hold regular committee meetings which are always well attended, lively and convivial.
- Since September 2022 we have been supporting the River Thame Conservation Trust (RTCT) through their 'Citizen Science' initiative - engaging local people to assist in monitoring the quality of water flowing towards the River Thame. . In general it has to be said that the overall quality of water is not good. The data collected is enabling the Trust to provide evidence in support of discussions with local landowners and businesses aimed at improving the quality of water in the area, which ultimately flows into the Thames
- Submitted regular articles for the Parish Magazine
- Continued to encourage use of the 'on-loan' BBOWT moth trap.
- Collaborated with the Weedon Open Gardens event to highlight wildlife-friendly features incorporated into their designs
- Collaborated with the Tuesday Club in their recent meeting earlier this month – at which we launched our Wildlife-friendly Garden Challenge
- Published our fourth Wildlife Calendar, featuring photographs taken in and around Weedon and Hardwick. This year we are being more proactive in seeking contributions.
- Continued to arrange 'Wildlife Trails', which have attracted participants from all age groups
- Continued to monitor the progress of elm trees planted in our first year. One the three saplings planted in Fortescue field seems to have given up its struggle to survive but we are delighted that the centrepiece planting of five elms in the field behind the chapel (a contribution to Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy initiative) have survived and appear to be doing well
- Maintained our website at www.wildweedon.org.uk , which we aim to be accessible for all ages, informative, educational and fun.
- Under the banner of 'Wild Weedon', our social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram attract modest numbers of visitors.
- After many iterations, the design for the Information Board intended for Stockaway pond has been completed and approved by the Parish Council. A generous £1,000 Grant from the Buckinghamshire Communities Board has been secured and we aim for installation later in the year.

All in all, another busy and exciting year and we look forward to a growing engagement with villagers of all ages in both Weedon and Hardwick.

Ideas for future projects and original ideas for activities are always welcome!

Mike Stevens
Chair – Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon)

Weedon Golf Society: Report for Annual Parish Meeting

The Weedon Golf Society had a very good season in 2024 and that continues in 2025. The membership is over 25 and growing and we play 9-10 matches over the season.

John Jones, as Handicap Secretary, has very successfully blended individual competitions with team events – meaning that the matches are enjoyable for players of all standards. The club is grateful to John and his now wife, Jill Mitchell for booking the events and to Joe Ward for keeping the accounts.

New members are always very welcome.